



Winter/Spring 2023

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## Explore Discovery Town!

Back by popular demand! Program your maps app for directions to Discovery Town! Located in our Woodward Exhibit Hall, Discovery Town is a pint-size city with giant-size fun.

*Learning through play is at the heart of Discovery Town.*

*Through role-play, young visitors to Discovery Town can:*

- cure kitties and treat furry friends at the Vet Clinic
- make, serve, eat or deliver pizza at the Pizza Shop
- gear up at the Fire Station, drive the fire truck, and extinguish a blaze
- load cargo and pilot a plane at the Airport
- sort mail at the Post Office and deliver letters throughout town
- enjoy outdoor fun and games at the Town Park
- visit the Zoo and spot the giraffe
- **and new this year**—take a spin on the sock Skating Rink

Role play is a crucial element in early childhood development. Role play aids in developing communication, social and language skills; making sense of real-life situations; experimenting, collaborating with others, creative expression and an awareness of self. It also happens to be fun!

Drop by for a visit and bring your imagination!

Sponsored in part by:



# New permanent Makerspace to open this spring!



If you've visited Discovery Center recently, you may have noticed the sounds of pounding and power tools. That's because exciting new things are underway with support from Collins Aerospace. We are creating a new permanent Makerspace!

The new Makerspace will have real tools and materials, where children and families can build their own creations and take them home. We'll provide project ideas or you can use new and recycled materials to build whatever strikes your imagination.

In addition to hand tools, we'll also feature technological tools, like 3D printers and a laser cutter. We'll have computers for coding, 3D design, game design and stop-motion animation. We'll have guest makers that will lead workshops on topics like electrical projects, screen printing, sewing, and making musical instruments.

This space will provide the opportunity for hands on learning, help with critical thinking skills, problem-solving and even boost self-confidence! Stay tuned for more details about the opening this spring.

## *Donations needed!*

In order to have a steady supply of materials for use in our Mobile Makerspace and upcoming new permanent Makerspace, we need your help! Please consider donating any of the items below:

- Used, small plastic toys: action figures, dolls, cars, trucks (no electronics, large toys, metal toys)
  - Wood- soft pine, not treated (no treated lumber plywood or hardwood)
  - Buttons
  - Thread or wire spools
  - Fabric pieces
  - Yarn
  - Dice
  - Game pieces
  - Prescription drug containers (clean, labels removed)
  - Screw-on beverage caps (no bottles, just caps)
  - Lids from jars/plastic containers (nothing with sharp edges)
  - Film canisters
  - Paper towel tubes
  - CDs and DVDs



Please ensure all items are washed, rinsed and safe for children. Donations can be dropped off at our admission desk Tuesday - Sunday from 9:30 am - 4:30 pm. This will be an ongoing need, so please keep saving and donating!



*Discovery Center  
is on Facebook*

Check us out and  
“like” us today!



#Discovery  
Center  
Museum



We're on  
Instagram!

@DiscoveryCenterMuseum



# Winter/Spring Events

All events included with museum admission unless otherwise noted:  
\$10 Public and free to Members and children age 1 and younger.



## January 22; 1 – 4:00 pm **Galaxy Adventures**

Journey through hyperspace to different worlds, practice your Jedi skills, and learn the ways of the Force in this day devoted to space-themed movies! Mingle with costumed characters, launch a rocket for Buzz, play "Floor is Water" with Lilo, practice using the Force to move objects and so much more! Galactic attire encouraged for this day of imaginative fun.



## March 11; 10:00 am – 2:00 pm **Ag All Around Us**

Roll up your sleeves and get down on the farm! Meet local farmers, create barnyard crafts, peek at some barnyard babies, and get hands on with where our food comes from. Sponsored by the Winnebago-Boone Farm Bureau.



## March 20 – 24, March 28 – 31 and April 4 – 7; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm **Spring into Science**

Include a trip to Discovery Center on your Spring Break agenda! Explore the universe with a planetarium show, create special projects and engage your brain with science demonstrations.



## April 8; 10:00 am – 2:00 pm **Egg-stravaganza**

Hop into the museum to fill your basket with yummy treats. Children ages 9 and younger can look for eggs at scheduled times based on age. The rest of the time, children of all ages can create super springtime art and jump into egg-cellent fun.

Members: \$2 for children/  
Adults no charge

Public: \$12 Children/Adults \$10



## April 22; 10:00 am – 4:00 pm **Reduce, Reuse & Remake**

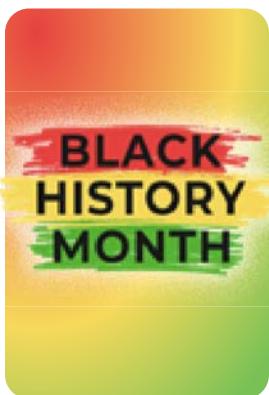
Celebrate Earth Day with environmental activities and crafts. Bring in one shopping bag filled with recycled materials and receive ½ off admission to Discovery Center for the whole family!



## May 19; 6:00 – 8:00 pm **Goodnight Discovery Town**

Say farewell to your favorite pint-size city before it closes May 29. Put on your favorite PJs for an evening at Discovery Town. Enjoy a free planetarium show, bedtime snack, and a walk through town before heading home to dreamland.

Members: Free  
Public: \$1/Person



## February 4; 11:00 am – 3:00 pm **Celebration of Black Culture**

Celebrate Black achievements in history, science, art, and sports with Discovery Center. Learn about Black scientists through hands-on experiments, discover educational displays throughout the museum, contribute to a collaborative art project which will be on display all month, and more! Sponsored by Collins Aerospace.



## February 11; 9:30 am – 4:30 pm **Discovery Town Opening**

Your favorite kid-size city is back at Discovery Center! Stroll the streets of Discovery Town, a place where children are the shopkeepers and the grownups are the customers! Take your pet to the vet clinic for a checkup, see a theatrical performance, enjoy a pizza, board a plane, fight a fire, skate at the town park and so much more!

Members: Free Public: \$1/Person



## February 25; 11:00 am – 3:00 pm **Discover Engineering**

What's it like to be an engineer and solve problems? We're wrapping up National Engineers Week with dozens of professional engineers from local firms as they set up shop at Discovery Center with hands-on engineering activities for children. Engage your brain and conquer fun challenges, meet high school robotics teams, enjoy special science demonstrations and more on this STEM-tastic day! Sponsored by the Illinois Space Grant Consortium.





## Tot Spot Classes

**Cost:** \$12 public/ \$10 members (per child, per class).  
Financial assistance is available (50% rate with EBT, WIC or SNAP and ID).

In our classes for 2-year-olds, children must be accompanied by an adult. At this time, we are limiting the number of people in the room for Tot Spot classes (ages 3 - 6) so parents are requested to wait outside and not accompany their child into the Tot Spot classroom.

**Registration:** Preregistration required; payment must accompany registration. Register online at [www.discoverycentermuseum.org/education/classes](http://www.discoverycentermuseum.org/education/classes) or call (815) 963-6769.



### Superheroes in Training

Calling all superheroes-to-be, we've got a training class for you! Fly in to create your own mask, make mini explosions, and create a shield to help you save the day.

#### Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., Jan. 10; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Jan. 11; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- Session 3 Wed., Jan. 11; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Jan. 11; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Session 5 Thurs., Jan. 12; 11:00 – Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Jan. 13; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 7 Sat., Jan. 14; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- (With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
- Session 8 Tues., Jan. 10; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 9 Thurs., Jan. 12; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 10 Fri., Jan. 13; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### Exploring Shapes

Shapes are all around us! Join us as we learn about what makes shapes different from each other as we read a shape-filled story, find hidden shapes around the room, and make messy art using shapes.



#### Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., Jan. 24; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Jan. 25; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- Session 3 Wed., Jan. 25; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Jan. 25; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Session 5 Thurs., Jan. 26; 11:00 – Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Jan. 27; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 7 Sat., Jan. 28; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- (With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
- Session 8 Tues., Jan. 24; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 9 Thurs., Jan. 26; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 10 Fri., Jan. 27; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### Blast Off!

3, 2, 1, BLAST OFF! Soar in as we explore some of the wonders of space. Launch a rocket, build and test your own space rover, and paint a nebula to take home.

#### Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., Feb. 7; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Feb. 8; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- Session 3 Wed., Feb. 8; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Feb. 8; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Session 5 Thurs., Feb. 9; 11:00 – Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Feb. 10; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 7 Sat., Feb. 11; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- (With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
- Session 8 Tues., Feb. 7; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 9 Thurs., Feb. 9; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 10 Fri., Feb. 10; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### Experience Engineering

Budding builders, this class is for you! Come build with large (like really, really large) cardboard pieces, engineer with playdough, and construct something out of recycled materials to take home. What will you make?

#### Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., Feb. 21; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 2 Wed., Feb. 22; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- Session 3 Wed., Feb. 22; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 4 Wed., Feb. 22; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Session 5 Thurs., Feb. 23; 11:00 – Noon
- Session 6 Fri., Feb. 24; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 7 Sat., Feb. 25; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- (With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
- Session 8 Tues., Feb. 21; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 9 Thurs., Feb. 23; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 10 Fri., Feb. 24; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### All About Animals

Roar, slither, and hop into class as we explore the world of animals! Discover new things about some of our favorite animals as we construct a giant bird's nest, make a snake out of paper chains, and roll around paint to make a tiger!

#### Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., March 7; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 2 Wed., March 8; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- Session 3 Wed., March 8; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 4 Wed., March 8; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Session 5 Thurs., March 9; 11:00 – Noon
- Session 6 Fri., March 10; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 7 Sat., March 11; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- (With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
- Session 8 Tues., March 7; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 9 Thurs., March 9; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 10 Fri., March 10; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### The Process of Art

This week, the experience of making art is more important than what we actually take home. Explore making process art with us as we paint with fly swatters, make shapes and patterns with colorful sand, and roll paint down a ramp. This class will be as messy as it is fun!

#### Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., April 4; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 2 Wed., April 5; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- Session 3 Wed., April 5; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 4 Wed., April 5; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Session 5 Thurs., April 6; 11:00 – Noon
- Session 6 Fri., April 7; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 7 Sat., April 8; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- (With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
- Session 8 Tues., April 4; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 9 Thurs., April 6; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 10 Fri., April 7; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### Nature Tots

Explore different plants and flowers in this botanic class. Go on a nature "hunt," get messy in mud, and plant seeds to grow at home!

#### Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., April 18; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 2 Wed., April 19; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- Session 3 Wed., April 19; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 4 Wed., April 19; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Session 5 Thurs., April 20; 11:00 – Noon
- Session 6 Fri., April 21; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 7 Sat., April 22; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- (With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
- Session 8 Tues., April 18; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 9 Thurs., April 20; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 10 Fri., April 21; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### Rainbows Everywhere

This week is all about rainbows! Learn how rainbows are made, make rainbows with flashlights, create colorful mini explosions, and design rainbow colored art to take home.

#### Sessions for 3- to 6-year-olds:

- Session 1 Tues., May 2; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 2 Wed., May 3; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
- Session 3 Wed., May 3; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 4 Wed., May 3; 1:00 – 2:00 p.m.
- Session 5 Thurs., May 4; 11:00 – Noon
- Session 6 Fri., May 5; 11:00 a.m. – Noon
- Session 7 Sat., May 6; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

#### Sessions for 2-year-olds:

- (With an adult, NO siblings, please.)
- Session 8 Tues., May 2; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 9 Thurs., May 4; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.
  - Session 10 Fri., May 5; 9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

### Toddler Time

Being one is FUN! Take advantage of this playgroup designed for children ages 12 months to 24 months as we sing songs, read stories and explore interesting materials while meeting new friends! Toddler Time is held from **9:30 – 10:30 am** this winter/spring on one Tuesday and Thursday each month. Choose from these dates: **January 17, January 19, February 14, February 16, March 14,**

**March 16, April 11, April 13, May 9, and May 11.** Enrollment is limited to 6 families. The class costs \$6.00 per child for members and \$8.00 child for the public, and advance registration is required. To register, follow the link under education or call 815-963-6769.

Toddler Time meets in the Tot Spot classroom (main floor, east end of the building).



## Homeschool Classes

**Ages:** 7 and older

**Dates/Times:** Choose from 10:00-11:30 am or 12:30-2:00 pm sessions.

**Cost:** \$12 Members / \$14 Non-members per child per class. Advance registration required. Payment must accompany registration. Registration deadline for Homeschool Classes is the Monday prior to the week of class. Register for classes on our website or by calling 815-963-6769.

### Fantastic Physics

**January 12**

Faster than a speeding bullet. More powerful than a locomotive. Able to leap tall buildings in a single bound! It's not a bird or a plane or a superhero...it's you! Learn how we use physics every day to give ourselves super powers!

### The Great Cardboard Derby

**January 26**

On your mark, get set, GO! Grab some cardboard and start building in this dash to the finish line! Design a cardboard racer and see if you have what it takes to win first place in this physics and engineering class.

### Exoplanet Explorations

**February 9**

One small step for man, and one giant leap for students as we blast off to unexplored planets! Learn what an exoplanet is, how we hope to get there, and what it would be like to live on a different planet!

### Colorful Chemistry

**February 23**

Join us for a stunning look at the beautiful colors of chemistry. Watch colors change like magic right before your eyes and mix chemicals to create your own colorful magic.

### Dissection Connection

**March 9**

Have you ever wondered what a shark liver looked like? Have you ever wanted to touch a brain? Do you want to know what's happening inside a starfish? Questioning minds are invited to join us as we examine animal specimens and inspect how they look on the inside.

### Egg Drop Challenge

**April 6**

What do you get when you cross an egg and a classic engineering challenge? This class! Design an "eggstremely" safe container for your egg and let it fly! Test your skills to see if you walk away with a perfect egg or a sticky mess.

### Bugging Out

**April 20**

Creepy, crawling, skittering, bugs. If the thought of bugs doesn't make you shiver, this might be the class for you! Join us as we observe bugs in our ecosystem, examine the inside of bugs, and ponder how bugs might be used in the future.



## Mini Monet program a hit

Encourage your young child's interest in art with special projects in the Art Studio each month. Our new "Mini Monet" drop-in program explores a different art medium each month - watercolors, tempera paint, clay, and more.

The program is for children ages 2-6, along with their grownups, and is from **10-11:30 am** on the following dates: **January 19, February 16, March 16, April 13** and **May 11**. No registration needed, and cost is included with museum admission.



## New Education Specialist joins staff

Heidi Holcomb is happy to call Discovery Center her new home away from home. Heidi has spent her career in education, serving as a teacher for 2nd and 4th grades, as well as an elementary principal. In addition to teaching classes at Discovery Center, Heidi will be teaching many of our outreach programs, teaching classes and STEM labs at Discovery Center, and assisting with special events. She and her husband are parents to a lively preschooler and a furry puppy. When Heidi is not busy teaching and parenting, she enjoys reading, cooking, and music. Welcome, Heidi!

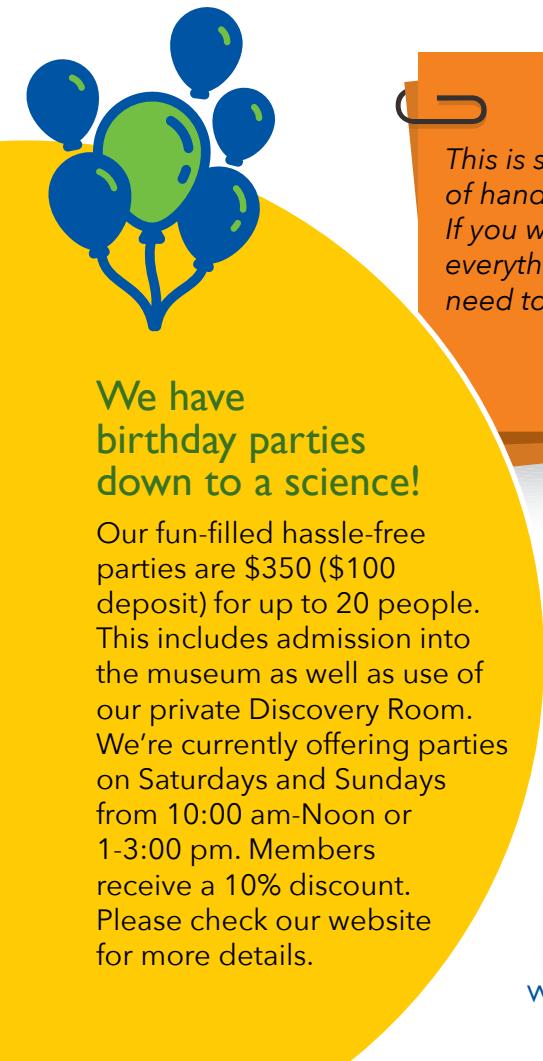


## Special events for children with disabilities

**Fun for Everyone** is a fantastic opportunity for children with developmental differences and their immediate families to get Discovery Center all to themselves.



**FREE of charge!** These special sessions include expanded museum exploration time as well as hands-on science fun in a sensory-friendly environment. Reservations required. To register and be added to the **Fun for Everyone** email list, email [amandago@discoverycentermuseum.org](mailto:amandago@discoverycentermuseum.org)



### We have birthday parties down to a science!

Our fun-filled hassle-free parties are \$350 (\$100 deposit) for up to 20 people. This includes admission into the museum as well as use of our private Discovery Room. We're currently offering parties on Saturdays and Sundays from 10:00 am-Noon or 1-3:00 pm. Members receive a 10% discount. Please check our website for more details.

*This is such a great museum with TONS of hands-on learning experiences! If you want your kids to experience everything this place has to offer, you need to plan on being there for a while!*

**Michael C.**

*The kids loved this place and didn't want to leave. We'll be back in the summer for the outdoor play area!*

**Elizabeth B.**

## Fun for Everyone dates:

**Thursday, January 19, 5:30-7:30 pm**  
Have fun playing in the museum!

**Wednesday, February 22, 5:30-7:30 pm**  
Enjoy a special science demonstration.

**Tuesday, March 14, 5:30-7:30 pm**  
Learn about the night sky in a special planetarium show.

**Saturday, April 8, 9:00 am**  
Delight in an egg hunt at 9:00 am, then feel free to stay and play during the public museum session.

Sponsored by



## Volunteer groups a big help

Discovery Center is fortunate to have the assistance of corporate and school groups volunteer their services. This fall we had volunteers from organizations including:

- Associated Bank
- Belcan
- Belvidere North Key Club
- Belvidere North Tennis Team
- Collins Aerospace
- PNC
- Rockford Christian Key Club
- Rockford University
- UIC College of Medicine
- UIC College of Pharmacy

Associated Bank volunteers helped prepare materials for Spooky Science



Belcan employees (along with employees from Collins Aerospace) were a huge help at our Smashing Pumpkins event



Rockford University students painted, pulled weeds and completed other projects in our outdoor park as part of the school's Jane Addams Day of Service.



## Fantastic fun for scouts

Discovery Center is the perfect destination for scouts! Girls and boys at every level can explore STEM concepts through hands-on exhibits, activities, and experiments. Make Discovery Center your location for a Cub Pack gathering, Girl Scout neighborhood or service unit retreat, or badge workshop! Choose from many custom programs and immerse your scouts in fun and playful STEM Learning. Visit our website to learn more.

## INFORMATION:

### Hours

Tuesday-Sunday:  
9:30 am-4:30 pm

### Admission

Adult/Child: \$10  
Children age 1 and younger and Members: FREE!

### Contact Us

Phone: (815) 963-6769  
Website: [discoverycentermuseum.org](http://discoverycentermuseum.org)

### Our Mission

Create opportunities for playful learning and discovery through hands-on experiences in the sciences and arts.

### Membership

**CLIMB SuperPass:** \$190/year  
**Family SuperPass:** \$135/year  
**Family Membership:** \$135/year  
**Grandparent Membership:** \$135/year  
**Caregiver Membership:** \$40/year

### Group Rates

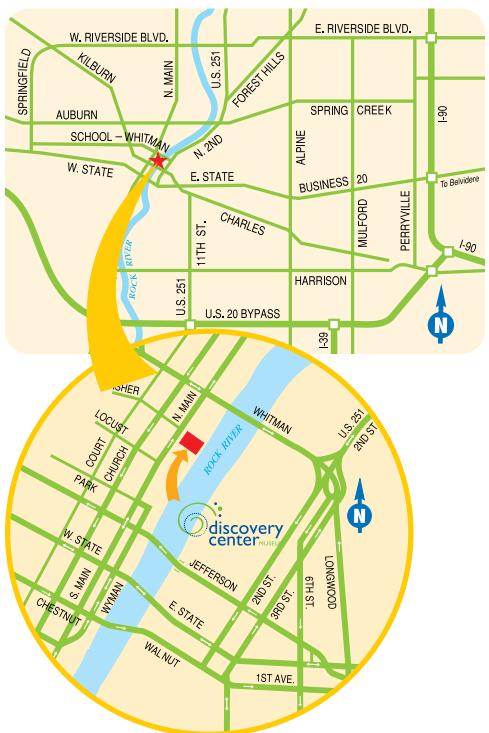
Discounted group rates are available for tours, museum rentals, and birthday parties. Reservations required.

### Staff

Sarah Wolf.....	Executive Director
Chase Fischer.....	Education Specialist
Lee Ann Gill.....	Education Specialist/Scout Coordinator
Amanda Gray-Orlando.....	Volunteer & Special Projects Coordinator
Kyler Hartje.....	Exhibits Technician/Planetarium Technician
Heidi Holcomb.....	Education Specialist
Michele Larson....	Gift Shop Manager/Birthday Party Coordinator
Renee Linstead.....	Administrative Assistant
Cheryl Maggio.....	Accountant
Lana Paris.....	Development Director
Bruce Quast.....	Exhibits Director
Mike Rathbun.....	Associate Director
Heidi Vasel.....	Guest Services Manager
Ann Marie Walker.....	Marketing Director
Jessica Williams.....	Education Specialist

### COVID Policies

Masks are not required.  
We respect and ask others to respect the choice of guests who choose to continue wearing a mask.



At Riverfront Museum Park  
711 North Main Street  
Rockford, IL 61103  
815.963.6769  
[www.discoverycentermuseum.org](http://www.discoverycentermuseum.org)

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## Discovery Center voted best museum

Discovery Center "Rocks" according to the Rockford community. Thanks to all that voted for us as best "Museum" for 2022!



*My kids love this place! It's been a staple of Rockford for a long time, I remember having school field trips here when I was a kid.*

*Adam W.*

*Been coming here since I was a kid. Even slept over here with Girl Scouts once, some of my best memories :) Even had my son's birthday here once it was perfect. Planning on coming back with my toddler soon. They have an awesome section called the Tot Spot just for toddlers. So even if you have little kids or older kids it's the perfect place to go.*

*Emilio's Mom*